

who had rarely spent little more than \$3,000 for any of his re-election bids, became increasingly discouraged with the changing political world and the need to siphon time and resources away from addressing the concerns of his constituents. He chose not to run for re-election in 1980.

Charles Vanik's life and his commitment to principle are truly remarkable. I believe one of the most important things we should learn from the actions and words of Charles Vanik is to constantly hold ourselves to the highest possible standards, no matter what the political environment or what criticism you might face. The United States Congress and the state of Ohio will miss one of its greatest public officials, Congressman Charles Vanik.

REMEMBERING FORMER REP-  
RESENTATIVE CHARLES VANIK  
OF OHIO

### HON. CHARLES A. WILSON

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 24, 2007*

Mr. WILSON of Ohio. Madam Speaker, it is important to commend the service of one of Ohio's distinguished public servants. Charles Vanik served for 26 years in the U.S. House of Representatives, and we are better for his service. He died at the age of 94 in September.

Representative Vanik is best remembered for his work that allowed more Russian Jews to immigrate to this country. During his tenure in the House, Representative Vanik of Cleveland also fought tirelessly for Social Security and Medicare.

Nearly all of Representative Vanik's life was devoted to public service. In the Navy, as a Cleveland Municipal Judge, in the Ohio Senate and through 26 years here in the House he worked tirelessly for the public. The great State of Ohio and this country mourn his passing.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to his wife, Betty, their children and grandchildren.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF CHARLES  
VANIK

### HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 24, 2007*

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of one of our former colleagues, Congressman Charlie Vanik. For 26 years, he was an admirable spokesman not only for the people of his district, but for the nation.

During his time in office, Congressman Vanik was one of Congress's most vocal advocates for human rights. In 1974, he co-authored an amendment to a trade law that required the United States to assess the human rights records of foreign countries before granting them special privileges. This law put pressure on the Soviet Union to allow freer emigration, and as a result, more than 2 million people were able to leave the Soviet Union in search of a better life.

While he was a member of Congress, he never forgot where he came from or the peo-

ple he represented. During his time in office he helped to pass several federal programs, including the federal school lunch program, that would help the people in his district and throughout the country improve their livelihoods. In addition, he is remembered by his former colleagues as a savvy, gifted speaker who had the ability to make every person in a room smile.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in remembering the life of Congressman Charlie Vanik. May he rest in peace, and may his service to his country and to this body always be remembered honorably. He is survived by his wife, Betty; his son, Jon; his daughter, Phyllis; and two grandchildren.

PASSING OF REPRESENTATIVE  
CHARLES VANIK

### HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 24, 2007*

Ms. JONES of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a remarkable man, a 26-year veteran of this distinguished body and an outstanding American.

The Honorable Charles Albert Vanik worked tirelessly to promote the civil rights of all people. His dedication to this cause extended further than the boundaries of our country and touched countless lives. The Congressman felt it necessary that every individual throughout the globe should fully enjoy the natural rights of mankind.

This commitment was most evident in his decision in 1968 to shift to the 22nd Congressional District following redistricting to allow a then up and coming African American politician by the name of Louis Stokes to run for and ultimately win the 21st Congressional District seat.

Charles Vanik was a native of Cleveland, Ohio. He represented my city and my extended community in a distinguished fashion. Serving as a councilman, a judge and a member of the state legislature before joining the United States Congress, he developed a reputation as a caring individual.

Congressman Vanik was wholeheartedly a representative of the people. As a member of the House Ways and Means Committee, he felt that both individuals and enterprises alike should equally contribute to society. The respect that his friends and fellow Members of Congress held for him, presented several opportunities for his policy objectives to be adopted in statutes relating to both taxes and trade.

Most importantly, this son of immigrants personified all that is great about our Nation and our people. He cared for his neighbors, he was passionate about freedom and he wanted to help those in need.

I had many opportunities to personally speak with Representative Vanik. The most memorable of these meetings was when the National Institutes of Health dedicated their new laboratory facility in honor of my predecessor Congressman Louis Stokes.

It is with great respect and admiration that I ask this esteemed body to keep his wife, Betty, and children, John and Phyllis, in our hearts and prayers. May we all rejoice in having known such a great man and cherish both our memories and his legacy.

ON THE PASSING OF FORMER  
CONGRESSMAN CHARLES VANIK

### HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 24, 2007*

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker, the news of the passing of Charles Vanik was truly a sad event for Ohio. We lost a genuine statesman who always worked for the betterment of his country, state, and community.

While I was not privileged to have met him personally, his reputation, legislative accomplishments, and dedication to making life better for those less fortunate were well known throughout the state.

Congressman Vanik was best known for the Jackson-Vanik amendment to the Trade Reform Bill in 1974, which forced the Soviet Union to open up its borders. Arguably one of the most successful pieces of legislation in forcing foreign policy changes, this provision was highly successful in opening up the USSR. This was just one of the many principled stands he took to stand up for his beliefs in defense of those who needed the most help.

My heart and prayers go out to his family. Ohio and the rest of the country join in mourning this great loss.

HONORING FORMER  
CONGRESSMAN CHARLIE VANIK

### HON. STEVE CHABOT

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 24, 2007*

Mr. CHABOT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the passing of a former member of this body from my home state of Ohio—Mr. Charles Vanik—who represented Ohio's 21st Congressional district, the east side of Cleveland, which later became the 22nd District.

After serving on the Cleveland City Council and in the Ohio State Senate, Charlie Vanik enlisted in the Naval Reserves during World War II and fought in both the Atlantic and the Pacific. He later went on to serve as a local judge before being elected to the United States House of Representatives in 1954.

Known for his black suits and bow ties, Charlie was a champion of working class families and was most famous for his strong stance against nations that denied freedom to its citizens—particularly the Soviet Union.

In 1974 he partnered with then-Senator Henry "Scoop" Jackson to craft what became known as the Jackson-Vanik Amendment, which denied normal trade relations to certain countries that oppressed its people and restricted the freedom of emigration. That amendment was offered to a trade reform bill and was intended to allow Jewish refugees to escape from the Soviet Union. The Jackson-Vanik Amendment is still on the books today.

Charlie Vanik is survived by his wife, two children and two grandchildren. I ask my colleagues to keep his family and friends in their thoughts and prayers in the coming months.